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# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 19 | Humidity 36% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 61,235 | Nifty 18,257 | Gold 49,100 | Silver 66,000 | Dollar 73.88 | Euro 84.74 | GBP 101.63

CITY / PAGE 2

## A CLASS ACT

Worries persist over online classes

CITY / PAGE 3

## IN THE FRONTLINES

# 263 animals die in 12 months in city's biological park as per an internal report accessed by BM sounding a massive increase in mortality rate

# ANIMAL HARM

## Turtles, tortoises most affected at BBP

KAUSHIK JN

A tiger at the Bannerghatta Biological Park

Garima Prasher
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As many as 263 animals reportedly died at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) in a span of 12 months in what is a huge increase in mortality rate and in fact a worrying trend.

An inventory report released by the city zoo accessed by Bangalore Mirror revealed 263 animal deaths between April 2020 and March 2021. The total births recorded in the same period was 51.

The number of animals vanishing at the park has been swelling over the last five years. While 263 animal deaths have been recorded last year, the mortality rate was 143 in 2019-20, 123 in 2018-19, 71 in 2017-18 and 68 in 2016-17.

Birth rate at the facility is not encouraging either. While 74 births were recorded five years ago, there has been a steady decline after that.

"Every zoo has a basic mortality rate. But if the numbers are increasing like that at the BBP, as a vet, I would like to pull up my socks and do more," said a veterinarian and a wildlife expert in the city.

The 263 animal deaths between April 2020 and March 2021 at BBP, according to experts, is a reason to worry. However, experts noted, the stress hormone levels in captive animals are directly proportional to the number of visitors.

"Higher mortality rate during the lockdown period is bizarre. This was the time when the number of visitors at the zoo or safari would be an all-time low. It should technically be a stress-free period for the animals. No honking, no vehicles; they should thrive. But, why are they dying? Was there a lack of funding to the zoo? Did they starve? Was there a disease

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

KAUSHIK JN

# Yellow means drive mellow

**Once again, zero tolerance traffic junctions shall ensure driving is a smooth affair in city limits**

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Zero tolerance traffic junctions are making a comeback in the city — the new addition is Chalukya Circle.

The brand new yellow criss cross markings at the circle ensure smooth traffic flow; also, a reminder that one should not violate traffic rules.

The Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL) had carried out smart city works at Millers Road from Chalukya Circle to Cantonment via Queens Road. While most of the roads have been completed with a much neater look, Chalukya Circle has been painted over with yellow criss cross markings and a board stating 'safety is gainful, accident is painful'.

BSCL chief engineer Vinayak Sugur pointed out that the spot has been taken up as a zero tolerance traffic junction in association with the Bangalore Traffic Police. "One cannot break traffic rules here. The idea is to ensure a smooth and safe ride. Many times, drivers tend to cross the stop line even when it is a red signal, hence the initiative was taken up to make the spot a zero

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

## 3 THINGS TO DO

### 01 Stories of the Land

KYNKYNY.com's latest virtual exhibition, 'Stories of the Land', celebrates the sublime sights, sounds and landscapes of rural India, meandering through tranquil hamlets, lush green fields and the lively markets and temples in the countryside. Featuring two prominent and well-loved contemporary artists, Mohan Naik and Sivabalan, the richly expressive artworks are an ode to the lesser-seen and known rural worlds of Goa and Tamil Nadu. The exhibition documents and celebrates the incandescent natural beauty as well as the rich culture, traditions and everyday sights in the region's villages and towns.
**Where: KYNKYNY.com; When: Till Jan 31**

### 02 Sankranti Santhe

Check out the annual Sankranti Santhe at studio Tamaala, J P Nagar. This event features 130 rural and tribal artisans from 39 regions of India, from the Luhars in Kutch to the Woodworkers of Saharanpur to the rural artists from Midnapore to the potters in Cuddalore and the miniature makers from Mysore. **Call: 8884816333**
**Where: Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar**
**When: Till Jan 15, 11 am–8 pm, all days**

### 03 Get skating, folks

If skating is your jam, turn up for this inauguration of a skating rink at Pashmina Waterfront. The event will be inaugurated by Channveer Kalyan, a Guinness world record holder in skating and a national-level medallist in inline hockey. There will be free skating lessons and kite flying after the event.
**Where: Pashmina Waterfront – Playzone, Old Madras Road, KR Puram; When: Jan 14, 4pm**

# Parents up in arms, again

## Guardians and experts say online education is less effective than learning in classrooms; they want schools to function with strict covid protocols

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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With schools in the city and in some parts of Karnataka ordered to shut down again, barely a couple of months after they reopened, education experts and parents say that the move is detrimental, not just to the development of children but also to the livelihood of many families.

In a press meet organised by the members of the Karnataka Rajya Makkala Hakkugalu Samrakshana Samiti on Thursday, many parents raised their concerns and demanded that the government restarts offline classes with strict Covid-19 precautions in place.

"The government decided to shut down the schools without taking our issues into consideration. There are families where both parents work in small-scale industries or earn livelihood as daily wagers. They have to be at work to make ends meet. Who will ensure that the children left alone at home attend their classes? How is the government planning to secure these kids from falling prey to cybercrime while browsing the internet, unsupervised?" asked Manne Mohan, one of the parents present at the press meet.

Most of the small-scale industries were closed during the second lockdown period and started functioning only a few months ago. Parents say that just when life was going back to normalcy with a stable income, this announcement has brought it back to square one.

Many kids do not have access to a steady internet connection, and miss out on valuable lessons

"In the last two weeks of schools' shutting down, we have been going to work on alternate days to ensure that our children are not home alone. But the leaves are over now. We have to go to work every day," rued another parent.

The members of the samiti say that while the policy is to first shut down everything else and then close the schools, the government decides to shut down schools first, even if a little spike is seen in the cases.

"They should either start offline classes soon or provide monetary benefits in case of loss of pay to us, as our compensation depends on daily performance. Markets and malls are open, but the schools are shut. There is no restriction on children elsewhere, why close schools then? The government should work on stringent Covid-19 safety measures at schools and start the classes soon or we will lose our livelihood," said Ranjitha Ramkumar, a working parent of two school-going children.

> **"Markets and malls are open, but the schools are shut. There is no restriction on children elsewhere, why close schools then?** – Ranjitha Ramkumar, a parent

### Stakeholders not consulted

According to Shashi Kumar, general secretary, Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka, the government took the decision without consulting stakeholders.

"This is a knee-jerk reaction by the government. No stakeholders, including us, were consulted. Earlier, there was a State Task Force in place to make such decisions with proper stakeholder consultation. However, the task force is ignored now. The government should have been more specific about measures to fill the gap arising from this shut down. Online classes cannot be the solution for one and all. There are many who do not have access to gazettes and internet connectivity. All these issues should have been discussed and addressed to achieve a uniform learning outcome," said Shashi Kumar.

# 93% covid patients in home care

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Though active covid-19 cases are increasing drastically in the state, a majority of them are in home isolation. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr K Sudhakar said, "Between January 1 and 11, there were 62,641 active cases; of them, about 6 per cent were in hospitals, one per cent in covid care centres and the rest 93 per cent were in home isolation."

### 32.65% increase in cases

Dr Sudhakar said, "Between December 28 and January 11, in 15 days, the cases increased by 32.64 per cent in Bengaluru Urban district and 32.65 per cent in BBMP limits." While the doubling time in the first wave was 10-12 days, it was eight days during the second wave.

But, in the third wave, the cases are doubling every 2 or 2.5 days, he added.

### Target: two lakh tests a day

Dr Sudhakar said, "We have set a target of at least two lakh tests per day and we will increase it further. About one lakh tests are being done in Bengaluru. About 265 laboratories are operational in the state and there are nine genomic labs including five belonging to the state government and four central government laboratories. We have a capacity to sequence 1,875 samples in one batch. In all, 3,460 ventilators and 8,100 oxygen concentrators are available."

### 30% beds reserved for kids

The health minister said that around 30 per cent of the beds in district and taluk hospitals have been reserved for treating children. Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital has been notified as a designated hospital for paediatric care. Tests are being conducted in schools once every 15 days.

### 18,374 C+ in Bengaluru

Covid cases reached a new peak as the state reported 25,005 cases on Thursday and Bengaluru's share was 18,374. The state also reported eight deaths including three in Bengaluru.

Among the deceased, a 21-year-old woman from Vijayapura district was the youngest victim. A 58-year-old man from Belagavi died of Covid.

For the first time, a record 2.01 lakh tests were conducted in Karnataka including 1.10 lakh tests in Bengaluru alone. The active cases soared to 1.15 lakh in Karnataka including 90,893 in Bengaluru.

# First line of defenceless

## Experts decode why frontline workers such as BBMP Marshals and policemen are still in the line of covid fire

KAUSHIK JN

BBMP marshals monitor CAB at KR Market in Bengaluru

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Frontline workers like BBMP marshals and police personnel, who are mostly coming in contact with the public to implement covid-appropriate behaviour (CAB) and law and order, are testing positive in higher numbers. Though none of them are serious or require hospitalisation, within 11 days, over 200 police personnel and 18 BBMP marshals have tested positive for covid. On Wednesday alone, 67 police officials tested positive in the city. Both marshals and police personnel are more vulnerable to get infected as they are mostly out on duty, interacting with people violating covid norms. All of them had taken their vaccines last year between March and April and suspect that they are testing positive due to covid antibodies wearing off.

Explaining the situation to Bangalore Mirror, Dr Ravindra Mehta, senior pulmonologist, Apollo Hospital, and member of the BBMP's Covid-19 task force committee said that it can be approached in two ways -- one of vaccine efficiency and another being the new variant. "Though people might believe that they are testing positive due to the vaccine antibodies wearing off, in reality, even after three doses, people are still testing positive. If we look at other countries, those who have taken the third booster shot, have also tested positive for covid."

However, Dr Mehta says that the severity of these cases are less and none of them would require hospitalisation. "Vaccine prevents severity of cases, but people can still test positive. Another possibility would be the new variant which is super infectious. Most likely, the increasing numbers are of the Omicron variant," he added.

A senior BBMP officer said that every marshal who tested positive has taken both vaccine doses and were supposed to take the booster dose soon. However, the majority of them are asymptomatic. "Though they were regularly interacting with people while being on duty, the chances of them infecting others are very less as their infection levels are very low," he added.

> **While it is believed that they are testing positive due to the vaccine antibodies wearing off, in reality, even after three doses, people are still testing positive**
>
> – Dr Ravindra Mehta, Apollo Hospital

A senior police officer said that in the second wave, the police personnel were affected more and about 1,905 officials were infected with 17 of them dying.

Many of them were severe cases and most who were infected in the second wave are now reinfected. "This time, 212 personnel have tested positive. We are expecting the cases to increase than the previous waves, considering that there were lockdowns and the police-public interactions were less. Now, all the police stations are working full-time and officials are interacting with a lot of people. As all of them are asymptomatic, we are sending them for home isolation. We have started booster doses for them and have vaccinated over 3,400 police personnel," he said.

BBMP Chief Marshal Rajbir Singh said that about 18 marshals out of 46 who were deployed in markets have tested positive in the last one week. He said, "Of them, only five are symptomatic and 10 of them were deployed in KR Market. As new marshals can't be deployed, we are currently testing all the 210 marshals in batches so that those who have recovered could rejoin if the number increases."

Dr Pradeep Rangappa, Consultant Critical Care, Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur said: "The Omicron strain will possibly supersede Delta, as per the emerging report. By now, we know that either the previous infection or vaccination will not necessarily protect us from reinfection from the new strain. It is important to understand that vaccination and CAB will definitely prevent the severity of the infection and the need for hospitalisation. We hope our health systems don't get overwhelmed with patients getting sick and needing hospitalisation."

# Marshals come closer home

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Starting now, don't be surprised if you find BBMP marshals entering your residential complex to monitor covid-appropriate behaviour. The latest guidelines issued by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) states, "Marshals and regional health authorities are entrusted to enforce CAB across the city. The marshals may visit apartment complexes or housing societies without prior notice. The Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and residents should cooperate accordingly. The RWAs can also form internal committees or task forces for effective communication, surveillance and containment of covid."

The civic body has also asked the RWAs to ensure that all maids, security and other staff are fully vaccinated. "Vendor services, couriers and delivery services ideally should be limited till the main gate to ensure reduced usage of common spaces. It is advised to check and ensure full vaccination status of all visitors. Emergency services like medical, plumbing, electrical, cooking gas and water supply need to be obtained with strict CAB. Ensure all residents are fully vaccinated and also temperature check at entry point," the guidelines stated.

### Disinfecting common areas

According to the guidelines, common areas such as floor, railings and surfaces inside apartment complexes, likely to be touched by multiple people, should be disinfected. "Common areas can be used, subjected to the strict maintenance of CAB. It asked residents to avoid usage of gymnasiums, sports facilities and swimming pools. Operations and allowed numbers shall be strictly as per the guidelines.

### Containment strategy

On over three cases being reported from an apartment complex or within 100 m perimetre, the cluster will be declared as "Containment Zone" for a minimum of seven days. Detailed contact tracing and surveillance activities shall be conducted among the residents. All households shall be surveyed for the health of the vulnerable population, the order stated, adding that testing of everyone within the containment zone is advisable.

The BBMP has also asked the RWAs to ensure that no covid positive resident is stigmatised by their neighbours. They can stay in touch with the affected resident/family through cellular mediums and social media.

# SPLIT WIDE OPEN

## As Koramangala roads crumble, BBMP, BWSSB play blamegame

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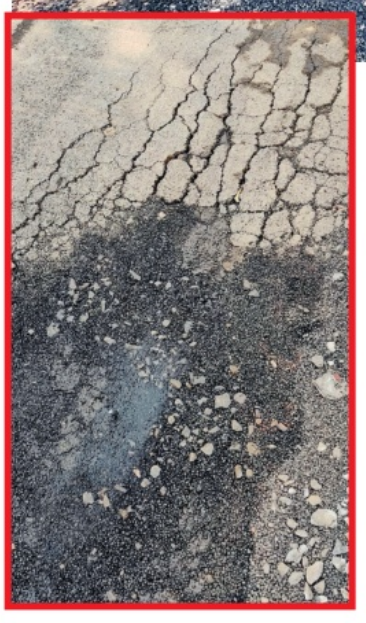
KAUSHIK JN



Workers lay asphalt coating on a road in Koramangala Block 1; (inset) a fresh layer of asphalt wear off from one of the stretches

Residents of Koramangala are raising the issue of poor quality of work carried out by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), who asphalted the roads last week. Within a week, the asphalt started to break down and cracks have developed on the road.

Gurushankar Chandrashekar, a resident of Koramangala 1st block and a private company employee, said that there was a lot of construction work going on in the stretch and the BBMP started the work last week. "The BBMP asphalted the roads twice in the last two lockdowns, but however, the road caved in soon. Last week, they carried out the work and within a week, cracks have developed and it might cave in again. Earlier to this, the road was in bad condition and we were happy that they were finally fixing them but it did not even last for a week. It is a haphazard job and they have not completed the work properly which is resulting in the asphalt wearing off soon."

Another resident, Mahesh, a software engineer, said that the road often keeps caving in and the civic authorities keep cutting the road open for some or the other work but never fix it properly. "Most of the roads in ST Bed are in bad shape and we always have to struggle to find alternate roads. Every time the BBMP takes up asphalting work, they don't complete it properly. They use poor quality of materials and apply only a single layer of asphalt, which wears off after a few vehicles passes on the stretches. There are many patches in the stretch and the road keeps caving in and new potholes keep coming up. If BBMP had put strong and thick layer of asphalt, the potholes wouldn't appear that easily," he added.

**"BWSSB had laid 2,000 mm pipe at almost 15-20 feet depth last year. It was not consolidated properly and the mud inside is still wet**
–BBMP official

An official from BBMP said that the BWSSB had taken up the work on the stretch and did not fix the road properly. "Subgrade is sinking as the BWSSB had laid 2,000 mm pipe at almost 15-20 feet depth last year. It was not consolidated properly and the mud inside is still wet. They had to wait for it to dry but due to several complaints, they fixed the road without waiting. Due to the same, the road keeps caving in. These pipes were laid till the Agara lake and there are patches everywhere, which we have been filling frequently. There is a work going on by GAIL as well and we are waiting for that to be completed so that we can complete the entire stretch at one go. The BWSSB had to lay multiple layers for the road for the surface to become thick. They are yet to restore the damaged road," he said.

# Finance dept objects ₹6,000-cr grant to city

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Officials identify black spots around the city

While Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai recently announced a Rs 6,000 crore infrastructure push to fix Bengaluru, sources say that this project has now hit rough weather as the finance department has taken exception to this.

The Rs 6,000 crore grant to BBMP under the Chief Minister's Amrita Nagaroththana Yojana was recently approved by the cabinet. As part of this project, the government announced the release of a special grant of Rs 2,000 crore each year from 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Officials of the Finance department objected to this move stating, "There is a proposal by the administrative department for providing Rs 2,000 crore to CM's scheme. But, there is a pending Rs 9,000 crore fund as per the approved Bengaluru Nava Nagarothana Yojana. So, the administrative department is planning to change the proposal."

As a result of this rider, the state government is facing an awkward situation for approving the project, without verifying the availability of funds. Many had also blamed this as a publicity stunt earlier as the BJP government was eyeing the upcoming BBMP polls.

As of now, there are plans to procure a loan and the project is planned to be implemented in five years instead of three. The finance department suggested procuring a 40 per cent loan from Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC) and the remaining 10 per cent should be raised by own resources. As per this arrangement, the government will release only Rs 3,000 crore for five years. This will add burden to the cash-strapped BBMP. A source said that the government approved the project following pressure from the city legislators who were facing the wrath of people for poor infrastructure.

### BBMP in crisis

As per the instructions by the Finance department, the BBMP must procure Rs 2,000 crore loan from KUIDFC and Rs 1,000 crore from its own resources. But, the finances of BBMP are stressed already. It is facing difficulty in paying the salary of the officials and staff and maintenance. From September 2019, it has kept the balance of Rs 3,229 crore to contractors. Each month, the civic body is spending Rs 300 crore for salaries and other purposes. It is spending Rs 75 crore on waste management; Rs 3,500 collected from property taxes is spent on salaries and for other expenses. In this situation, there arises a question as to how the BBMP will gather the fund.

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### Wire trouble
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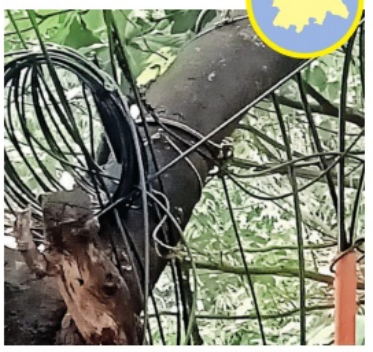

On Ulsoor Road, broadband cables are hanging too low, causing inconvenience to the public. This is very dangerous for commuters and pedestrians.

### Cover them
Bilekahalli

Every road user at Anugraha Layout in Bilekahalli face danger every day, with the sewage drains kept uncovered and the covering slabs are placed along the roadside in many places. The authorities need to fix it soon.

## Readers, get in touch!

- We are all set to resume our Tap the Chatter segment during the weekends. The question for this week is:
  - How has the covid third wave affected your Sankranthi plans? Do you think the state government has done a good job with the measures taken?
  - Please send us your responses along with a profile picture and we shall feature it in our pages.
- We would love to see the city as you see it. Please send us some of your best snapshots of Bengaluru with a caption and we shall pick the best to feature it in our Picture of the Day segment.

# The focus is fast shifting to the suburbs

## Suburbs now have everything that the city offers and more

Over the years, Indian metros have witnessed a trickle of its citizens shifting towards the developing suburbs. The pandemic only gave it more momentum. However, questions arise in the wake of this massive population upsurge - is suburbanisation the only solution to ease the load on a city bursting at its seams? Are India's suburbs better prepped to cater to this migration in terms of infrastructure and a better quality of life? Here are some interesting findings.

### India's suburbanisation graph

The growth of cities happened on the back of rural migration in search of better employment. These cities then evolved into metropolitan areas when their population increased to more than 10 lakh. Global economists and urban planners peg the reason for further migration of the metropolitan population to the outskirts of the city – or the suburbs - to economic and infrastructure development in these areas.

"Suburbanisation is the process by which, holding the metropolitan population constant, there is an increase in the proportion of population living in the suburbs," defines Prof Kala S

Sridhar, Centre for Research in Urban Affairs, Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru. Explaining this shift, she adds, "India's suburban population in 2015 was 33 per cent, which is comparatively more than its urbanisation rate of 31 per cent in 2011 and approximately 32 per cent in 2015. Many households have suburbanised in India's cities now to consume more land and housing."

### Reasons for suburbanisation

Applying standard urban models and using sub-city level data, the quantitative analyses underlying suburbanisation were reported by Prof Sridhar for more than 140 cities in the country, based on satellite data from the Global Human Settlements Layer.

### Property prices

It is not an entirely new observation that there exists variation in the real estate prices across all Indian cities with each city's civic body fixing the guidance value of properties. Bhaskar T Nagendrappa, president, CREDAI Bengaluru, pointed to the disparities in real estate prices across the central city and suburbs as a reason for the observed suburbanisation. "There is the need to increase the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) where it is currently quite low in Indian cities compared to the global FAR of five," he explains. Presently, the average FAR in 141 Indian cities is 2.7. "The FAR should be need-based; as people need more housing; the FAR should be increased too," adds Niranjan Hiranandani, vice-president (national), NAREDCO.

### Advanced infrastructure

A report by Greg Clark, a banker and Miguel Gamiño of a financial services firm, for the World Economic Forum states that cities are evolving from a focus on corporations, commuters and consumption to a focus on habitat, innovation and experience. India's public transport system is facing the urgent need to transform its infrastructure facilities and offer a better and safer experience. While the collective metro rail connectivity projects are on the fast track in several metros, there's much to be accomplished.

### Working from the suburbs

Cities turned into metros as greater development in terms of employment and housing beckoned rural dwellers from the surrounding towns and villages into their fold. Just as businesses followed the labour force talent into cities, some are likely to follow them into the suburbs – particularly given the benefits of lower commute time, as well as lower rentals, states a Cushman and Wakefield report.

Covid-19 has elevated the narrative of the 'resurging suburbs' .While Covid-19 is likely to accelerate interest in the suburbs, the trend predates the pandemic.

—Times Property

### An auspicious time to buy and invest in property

If you are planning to buy a site, then festivals starting from Sankranti is the right time. A property developer said, "For many, investment in property is a plan of the lifetime. So, people think a lot before buying. It is a tradition to seek an auspicious time to visit a site or buy property. Now, the right time has come as it is strongly believed that Sankranti is the right time to invest in property." He said that we have a number of auspicious days, and among them it is believed that Sankranti brings good fortune for those who want to invest. Another property developer added, "We are now entering Uttarayana which is considered an auspicious time for starting new things. As for many, buying property and constructing a house is considered a new phase of life, we hope that people will make use of this right time to invest in property."

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### business

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## personal

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I, Srinivasa Hebbar, S/o S. Anandakrishna Hebbar R/o 53, Surabhi Apts, Flat 301, 11th Main Malleswaram, Bengaluru, have changed my minor son's name from SHYAM HEBBAR S to SHYAM SHIBARA HEBBAR for all purposes.

I Sumanth S/O, Gururajacharya Jahagirdar R/o 108 Nandi Manomay Arcade. 1197/24/1, Sai Lotus, 1st Main Channasandra, Rajarajeswari Nagar Bangalore - 560098 have changed my name to Sumanth Jahagirdar

I, Ritarani Shivaji W/o Anand Kumar, R/o No.33, 1st main, 5th A cross, near Rama temple Annasandrapalya Vimanapura PO Bengaluru 560017 have changed my name to RITA RANI afffidavit Dt.13/01/2022 notary Muneer.A B'luru

I, Sumanth B N, S/O Nagaraj B R, R/O #28 "Shandilya" 2nd Main 3rd Cross Manjunath Nagar Chikkalsandra Bengaluru: 560061 have changed my name to Sumanth B N Shandilya for all purposes.

I, E. Ramesh R/o Flat No-a405, Pristine Elegance, 6th Cross, Old Mangammanapalya, Bangalore-560068. have changed my minor daughter's name from R. Thanu to R. Thanuja for all purposes.

I, Reddi Vandla Anil Kumar R/O 26/4/1462/5, Hindupur, Anantapur-Dt Holder of Passport No-U2204854 have changed my name as Reddi Vandla Anil Kumar Reddy for all purpose

I, Syed Sulahlal W/o Mohamed Mohideen M R/o Abdulla Manzil, No.535 , 4th C Cross Hrbr 2nd Block , Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru:560043 have changed my name to Syed Sulaihal Mohamed for all purposes.

I Prasant Lalitkumar Asodia S/O, Lalitbhai R/o Flat No 009 Vaastu Hill View 1 Bangarappa Main Road Rajarajeshwari Nagar Bangalore 560098 have changed my name to Prasant Asodiaa

I, Vinod Radha S/o Radhakrishna M R R/o No-132 & 133, 14th Main 8th F Cross, Indira Colony, RPC Layout, B'lore-560040 have changed my name to Vinod Radhakrishna.


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# PRIMAL FEAR LINGERS

## While in 2020, 67 bonnet macaques had to be rescued, in 2021, the number of rescues had jumped up to 146 in the city's concrete jungle

Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With rapid urbanisation, the number of rescues of bonnet macaques in the city has increased. From 67 rescues reported in 2020, the rescues rose to 146 in number in 2021.

The People For Animals (PFA), wildlife rescue and conservation centre located in Kengeri has seen a significant increase in the number of bonnet macaques rescues. The rescues are more prominently in areas like Yelahanka, Banashankari, Sarjapur Road, Hebbal, Mahalakshmi Layout, Jalahalli Cross, Basweshvar Nagar, KR Puram.

Colonel (Dr) Nawaz Shariff, Chief veterinarian, PFA Wildlife Hospital pointed out that with the rapid urbanisation and building activities the macaques have lost their habitat.

Rapid urbanisation has snatched the bonnet macaques habitat from them

### Loss of habitat

"With the number of buildings coming in and many trees being cut, they are losing their habitat at a fast pace. This apart, due to religious purposes, many people start to feed the macaques fruits in areas where the animals do not have have space to move. In order to move from one apartment to other apartment they use electric wires, which results in their electrocution. There has been a rise in incidence of electrocution. Some even fall from the buildings and get injured." said Dr Shariff.

This apart, there have been cases of of people try to shoo them away by throwing stones at them and thereby injuring them. Dr Shariff also pointed out that with more awareness on rescue centres, people have started to call and report to centres. "Earlier many of the macaques would have even died as people were not aware whom to inform about the injured macaques. We have even had cases where macaques have been electrocuted and unattended to for over 4-5 days as people did not know who should they approach to. Now we get calls on our helpline number and the rescue officials go to the spot and rescue the macaques and thereby looking at the injury, we carry out the treatment."

> **"There are localities where at the garbage dump, food packets are thrown and macaques are seen there. We asked the people to maintain cleanliness**
>
> – Dr Nawaz Shariff, PfA

Recently one adult macaque was seen going from one house to another, and a citizen noticed that the newborn was hanging in the uterus. While the baby was dead, the mother was moving around, one of the citizen noticed it informed the PFA team for its rescue. The macaque was then captured through a net and the adult macaque was given anaesthesia, and the baby was removed.

Dr Shariff also pointed out that alot of times people call them up to capture and relocated the macaques, however he said that according to the wildlife act, they cannot capture or relocated an animal. "We advise people to stop feeding them, once it's stopped they will go away. There are localities where there is garbage dumping, where food packets are thrown and the macaques are seen in such places. So we asked the people to maintain cleanliness around and avoid feeding them."

The bonnet macaque is a protected species under the Schedule II (part 1) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

# After HC and govt rap, padayatra postponed

After high drama, the Congress party's 'Mekedatu padayatra 'has been 'temporarily' called off.

This comes after a rap from the Karnataka High Court and a crackdown by the BJP government on the 'Mekedatu padayatra' amid covid crisis. The state Congress unit has now announced the temporary withdrawal of the 10-day padayatra.

Announcing the decision at a press meet, Opposition leader Siddaramaiah said that after the relaxation of covid guidelines, padayatra will be taken up from Ramanagar. State KPCC President DK Shivakumar said, "It is a temporary break in the interest of people and the decision was taken respecting the sentiments of the court."

Siddaramaiah explained that this is the fifth day of padayatra and they were supposed to begin from Ramanagar to Bidadi.

After reaching Kengeri, the rally would have reached Bengaluru city. "Since more than 15,000 infections are reported in Bengaluru, we are making decisions in the interest of people," he stated.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "The third wave is proving to be severe. Under the prevailing circumstances, it is not appropriate in the interest of public health to conduct programmes like padayatra." Even the BBMP, which had earlier given permission to conduct the valedictory programme of padayatra at Basavanagudi grounds, was withdrawn. **— BMB**

# Tesla's Bengaluru debut has run into a 'key-challenges' roadblock

Here's bad news for Tesla watchers. The international electric vehicle company's debut in Bengaluru will be delayed further. Founder Elon Musk, who has been trying to launch Tesla in India for the past couple of years, is still haunted by the "key challenges" at the government's end that have grounded his electric cars from running on domestic roads.

Despite the government luring him with various schemes and promises and repeated "come and manufacture/assemble your cars here" calls from the top ministers, Musk is "still working through a lot of challenges with the government.

Tesla has already set up a corporate office in Mumbai, secured an office in Bengaluru and is looking for key executives to start operations in the country. According to the Registrar of Companies' website, Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited has been incorporated and registered on Lavelle Road. Tesla registered its Indian subsidiary with the Registrar of Companies in Bengaluru on January 8, 2021 with Rs 15 lakh authorised capital and Rs 1 lakh paid up capital. Tesla has plans to set up an engineering centre in the city.

But, what are those key challenges that have stopped Tesla from taking concrete steps to finally roll out the most-coveted electric car for its fans in India?

According to industry experts, the main challenge for Tesla to enter the Indian market is import duty. With a $39,990 global price tag, Tesla Model 3 may remain as an affordable model in the US but with import duties, it would become unaffordable in the Indian market with an expected price tag of around Rs 60 lakh. Currently, India levies 100 per cent tax on the imported cars of price more than $40,000 (Rs 30 lakh) inclusive of insurance and shipping expenses, and cars less than $40,000 are subject to 60 per cent import tax. The government may consider lowering import duty along with offering other sops to Tesla but for that, the EV major would have to invest in setting up a manufacturing facility in the country. "This has been ongoing for the last few years. Tesla wants to sell completely finished products in India where the Indian government wants to bring complete knocked down (CKD) products initially and start assembling in India," Soumen Mandal, research analyst, IoT, Automotive and Devices Ecosystem at Counterpoint Research said.

Tesla wants to test the Indian market by importing cars before making any commitments for manufacturing.

**– BMB and agencies**

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PARAS

# Covid review: PM calls for more localised measures

## Tells states to ensure there is no panic and minimum damage to livelihood

**#New Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asked chief ministers to ensure minimum damage to the livelihood of common people and economic activities as they work to contain the coronavirus, while noting that its Omicron variant is infecting people many times faster than earlier variants. "We have to be alert, be careful. But we also have to ensure that there is no panic situation. We have to see that in this festive season, the alertness of people and administration is not lowered anywhere," he told chief ministers at a virtual meeting to review public health preparedness and the ongoing vaccination programme.

NATION

A medic collects swab samples for RT-PCR covid-19 test at a clinic in Bhopal on Thursday

In his remarks at the meeting, the prime minister underlined the importance of vaccination and the need to further accelerate the 'Har Ghar Dastak' programme to achieve 100 per cent vaccination coverage.

Irrespective of the virus variant, vaccine remains the only proven way to tackle the pandemic, and made in India vaccines are proving their superiority all over the world, he said.

"In order to defeat coronavirus we need to keep our readiness ahead of every variant. Along with tackling Omicron, we need to start preparing for any future variant from now itself," he said.

India has given the first dose of vaccines to about 92 per cent of its adult population while 70 per cent received both doses, he noted. It has also vaccinated nearly three crore adolescents within 10 days and this shows India's potential and its preparedness to deal with this challenge, Modi said.

With any stringent lockdown affecting a large area likely to hit the economy hard, Modi asked chief ministers and heads of governments at various union territories to focus more on local containment and maintaining the momentum in the economy.

Some states have imposed fresh curbs to check the virus spread.

Modi stressed that states should be in a position to provide maximum treatment to infected population in home isolation.

For this, home isolation guidelines should keep on improving and be strictly followed, he added and noted that telemedicine facilities will also help a great deal.

The way the central and state governments had adopted a preemptive, proactive and collective approach in previous waves, the same is the mantra of victory this time as well, the prime minister said.

"The more we can limit the corona infection, the less the problem will be," he added.

"The sooner we give precautionary dose to frontline workers and senior citizens, the stronger our healthcare system will become," he said.

Modi asserted that it is very important to safeguard the economy and the livelihood of common people while framing Covid containment strategies.

"There should be minimum damage to the livelihood of the common people, economic activities, and the momentum of the economy be maintained. It is very important to keep these things in mind while making any (containment) strategy," Modi said.

"So it would be better to focus more on local containment," he added.

Modi said 130 crore people of India will surely emerge victorious from the coronavirus pandemic with their collective efforts. The doubts that were there earlier about Omicron are slowly getting cleared now, he noted.

The Omicron variant is infecting the general public many times faster than the earlier variants, he added.

Addressing the meeting, the prime minister noted that India's battle with the pandemic of 100 years has now entered its third year. "Hard work is our only path and victory is our only option. We, 130 crore people of India, will surely emerge victorious against Corona with our efforts", he said.

The sooner the precaution dose is given to the frontline workers and senior citizens, the more the capacity of our healthcare system will increase, he said, stressing the need to counter any misinformation about vaccines or the practice of wearing masks.

– PTI

# Zero tolerance traffic junctions are back

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tolerance traffic junction," he said.

About six years ago, some of the junctions which were made part of zero tolerance zones with similar markings were Trinity Circle, Cubbon Road, 100 Feet Road at Indiranagar, KR Road, Old Madras Road, Urvashi Theatre, Cauvery Arts and Crafts Emporium, Sony World Junction in Adugodi, ISRO Junction and the junction near Sadashivanagar police station. However, at many places the markings have faded, and many violators continue to break rules.

Chalukya Circle is one of the significant spots frequented by hundreds of commuters on a daily basis, from where one can travel to Vasanthnagar, Race Course Road, Mekhri Circle, Shivajinagar, Ali Askar Road, Anand Rao Circle, Majestic and other adjoining areas.

DCP traffic for east division KM Shantharaju said: "The smart city project work was ongoing at Chalukya Circle for a long time: the work was affected due to rains. Now, it is done and the stretch has been asphalted. The junction has got yellow markings, where we shall up the vigil. The rules cannot be violated here. By making the markings, we are making the drivers alert to ensure safe driving. It is not only in zero tolerance junctions that rules should be followed but even while riding on other roads. These markings are done for the benefit of the public so that they are aware and go slow at the junction, which will help avoid any mishaps."

A traffic police official pointed out that the junction is usually congested with traffic during the peak hours; during the night people are caught over-speeding, he said, adding that with the zero tolerance junction created, it will allow one to ride or drive safely.

Raj Kumar Dugar, founder of Citizens 4 Citizens, said: "Making it a zero traffic tolerance junction will definitely help, but only if it is enforced well. We must ensure that awareness is created; police need to create awareness, not to cross the stop line and enter the yellow crossing. Right now, 90% of the people wear helmets because there are fines. If the fines are not there then most of them will stop wearing helmets."

KAUSHIK JN

# What's causing a spike in mortality rate at BBP?

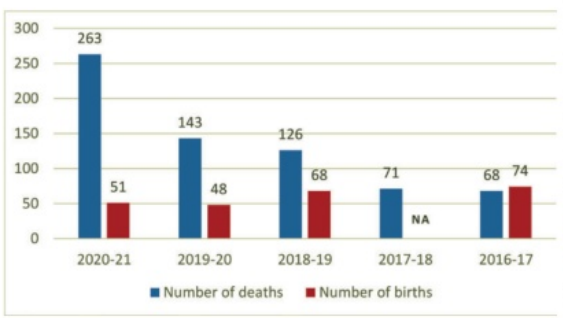
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outbreak? According to me, mortality rate should have either remained constant or gone down," said another wildlife expert, adding that low natality rate is not reflective of the lockdown period and thus, peace and quiet.

### Turtles, tortoises hit

Major fatalities recorded were of Tricarinate Hill Turtles (18 deaths) and Star Tortoises (68 deaths). According to the data from the BBP, greater part of these fatalities was due to health conditions such as pneumonia, enteritis, cold shock and traumatic shock.

However, experts said such broad diagnoses cannot be used to ascertain the exact cause. "Till one looks at post-mortem reports, nothing can be said with certainty. Reasons given are based on broad diagnoses. It's like saying 'death due to fever'. There can be hundreds of reasons, and the exact cause can be deduced only after multiple tests," said another city-based wildlife health expert.




### Shoddy transport

According to wildlife enthusiasts, large scale mortality can also be due to poor handling, collection and transportation situations.

Most of the species of Chelonia (turtles, terrapins and tortoises) are seized by the forest and police departments and are brought into the park, generally stuffed in small bags and boxes with no air, space, food and water for days, or even months together, before they are rescued and sent to a zoo or an NGO. Majority of the animals die due to stress and infection en route.

Once confiscated, the transportation and rehabilitation take months and the animals are kept in bathrooms, garages, boxes or stuffed inside sacks during this time. Lack of proper food and sunlight leads to the development of internal parasites.

"There can be a plethora of reasons. Whenever the authorities confiscate wildlife, they should try and repatriate the animals as soon as possible. If they are unable to do so, proper housing and care should be provided. However, most of our rescue centres and zoos have limited understanding of that," said Dr Shailendra Singh, director, Turtle Survival Alliance.

> **"Those who handle wildlife should be trained in triage of confiscated animals. They should try to mimic species-specific habitats in captivity** —Dr Shailendra Singh, Turtle Survival Alliance

### Species biology

Experts are of the view that the majority of the wildlife are specialist creatures and seldom thrive in a captive environment of rehabilitation centres or biological parks.

"If you take the case of Tricarinate Hill Turtles, they live in Sal forests and open grasslands that have unique ecology. There are large trees and moist forest floor with puddles and are heavily tied to tiger habitats. This turtle is a specialist creature that thrives on different kinds of mushrooms, arthropods and things that grow on forest floors. Once in captivity, the climate and habitat features are not in their favour. This is applicable to all wildlife," added Dr Singh.

Limited husbandry, lack of knowledge on the species' biology, subpar health assessment facilities are some other challenges.

"People who handle native wildlife should be trained in the triage of confiscated animals. They should learn more and try to mimic species-specific habitats in captivity," Dr Singh explained.

When this correspondent tried to reach out to BBP authorities, they either refused to comment or remained unavailable.

**HEALTH TIP:** Brushing your hair often may aid in scalp stimulation and blood circulation to help in the production of oils that keep the hair and scalp healthy

Sesame is packed with calcium, magnesium, Vitamin B-6, Iron, dietary fibre, protein and several other nutrients

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## BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

**The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.**

**1 My fiancée doesn't want to have sex before marriage as she is a virgin. I told her that oral sex does not count as sex but she refuses to listen. Is there a chance that she would lose her virginity through oral sex?**
There is definitely a chance, as the partner is extremely close to the vagina and sometimes it is difficult for one of the partner's to control oneself.

**2 I was playing football and I was hit by the ball really hard in the groin area. The pain didn't last long initially and I was able to continue with the sport. But, since the next morning I have been frequently experiencing pain during urination (not constantly). There is no visible injury and I don't have any problems during sex. Should I be worried?**
Be patient. Your symptoms are most likely to disappear in a few days. If the pain is persistent, visit a doctor.

**3 I am an avid follower of your column and I have seen that people often enquire about the size of their penis. They also comment it has shrunk. You always assure them that it is impossible. Why do you think people ask such questions repeatedly and keep citing examples of the same? Has there ever been one genuine case? Or is this all just people hypnotising themselves?**
Thank you for being an avid reader, for taking interest and for writing to us. More than a billion people live in this country, and I am sure lakhs of them are worried about the size of their penis. Many of them don't realise that unless they have a really minute penis, even the lowest average length of 2.5 inches - 3.5 inches is adequate enough to satisfy one's partner sexually. All they need is to be skilled in foreplay.

**MEET THE SEXPERTS**
**Use this QR code to send your questions to us**

# Your skin will love these superfoods

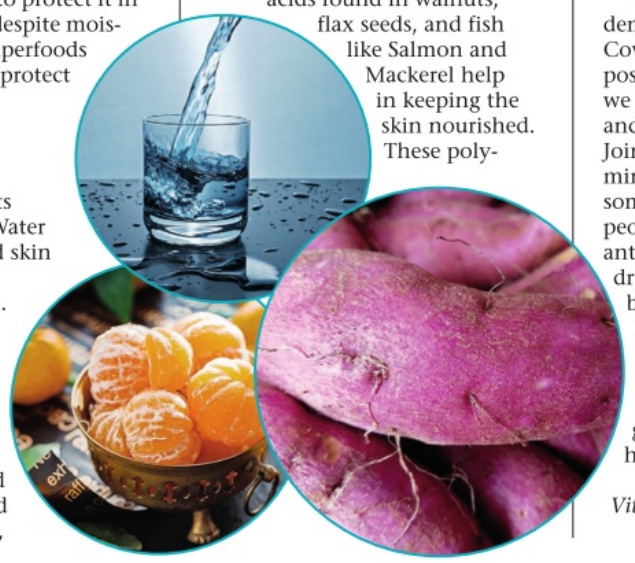
## Find out what dietary choices can help skin retain its glow even in the winter

Your food habits have a huge impact on your energy levels and even show on your skin. The dietary choices we make every day can either make us feel energetic and look good or can make us look older than our actual age.

Healthy eating is beneficial for maintaining proper body weight as well as boosting the immune system. It rejuvenates your skin and improves your hair quality, thereby leaving you with glowing skin and reduced hair fall. Apart from that, it also helps to smoothen the skin, curb wrinkles and strengthen nails. Skin, during winters, can become dry, and one might not be able to protect it in the right manner despite moisturizers. Certain superfoods can help healthily protect the skin-

**Water:** This one is one of the most important elements in our daily diet. Water gives our body and skin the much-needed boost of hydration. Consuming ample water makes the skin soft, smooth and supple. If the opposite is done, it can lead to dryness, clogged pores, wrinkles and blemishes. Further, drinking less water leaves you dehydrated that can trigger fatigue and make you look older.

**Fatty Acids:** Omega-3 fatty acids found in walnuts, flax seeds, and fish like Salmon and Mackerel help in keeping the skin nourished. These poly-unsaturated fats accelerate the production of the skin's natural oil barrier, which is critical in keeping your skin hydrated. It even makes it plumper, and younger-looking.



**Carrots:** Carrots are rich in beta-carotene and lycopene that protect skin from UV damage. Although the sun is not too bright in winters, UV rays are still present all around us. Carrots are also packed with Vitamin A, potassium and antioxidants that keep dry skin and uneven skin tone issues at bay.

**Citrus fruits:** Winters are the time when fresh juicy and refreshing citrus fruits such as oranges, tangerine, grapefruit, and lime are available in abundance. These vitamin C rich fruits can be excellent winter superfoods. Some common benefits provided are - Vitamin C can help boost immunity, the water content can help keep the body hydrated, and fibre can help improve digestion.

**Sweet Potatoes:** A winter special is loaded with tons of benefits. Sweet Potatoes are loaded with fibre which keeps the stomach full for a longer time. The high levels of beta-carotene found in sweet potatoes not only nourish the skin but also makes it glow from within. They are essential to boost immunity and help in safeguarding the body against minor ailments.

The change in weather demands a change in diet. With Covid cases on a rise again, it poses a lot of health problems as we continue to work from home and there is less physical activity. Joint problems, weight gain, vitamin D deficiency, constipation are some of the common problems people are facing during self-quarantine. With winter stepping in, dry skin and hair fall also become a cause of concern. Enriching your diet with nutrient-rich foods may help deal with all these problems and let you enjoy good immunity, good skin and overall good health.

*Rohit Shelatkar, VP at Vitabiotics, Fitness & Nutrition Expert for IANS*

**MIRRORLIGHTS**

## Study finds nature helps people cope with body image issues

According to a new study, being in nature helps people deal with negative body image by removing some of the triggers of body image anxiety, such as the focus on social media, and strengthening coping mechanisms to keep negative feelings in perspective.

The research has been published in the 'Ecopsychology Journal'. The research involved 401 participants from the UK, who were asked to complete a survey about their exposure to nature, "rational acceptance", and body appreciation.

Rational acceptance is a coping mechanism, broadly defined as the way people rationalise and keep in perspective any feelings of negative body image that come and go.

The study found positive associations between all three measures in both men and women.

The paper, the first to look at how exposure to nature can help the mind cope with temporary feelings of negative body image, concluded that spending time in natural environments provided opportunities for healthy body image coping strategies.

This may be due to the physical and mental distancing from the sources of body image threats such as unrealistic appearance standards, mirrors, or social media.

Being in nature may also help individuals develop healthier thought processes that allow for more realistic appraisals of body-image threats and their future consequences. **—ANI**

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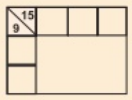
@BangaloreMirror

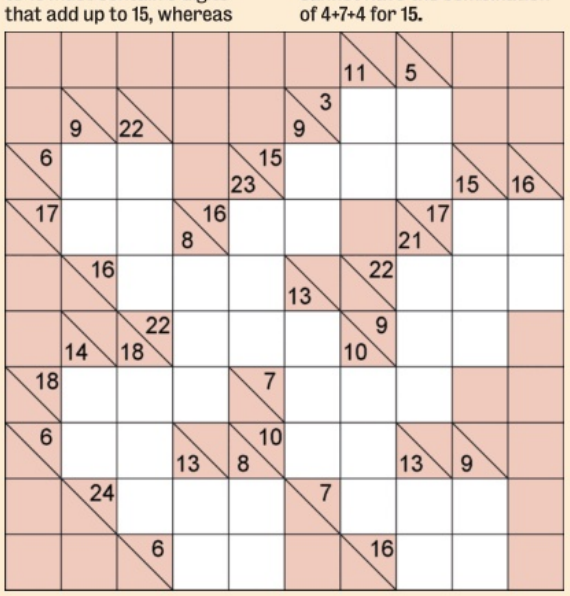

## Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

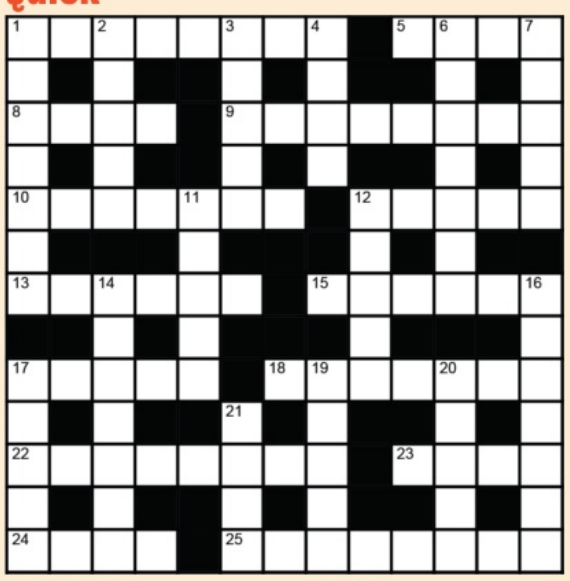



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



## Quick



**ACROSS**

1 Murderer (8)
5 Inquires of (4)
8 Common metal (4)
9 A white wine (8)
10 Large hawks (7)
12 Watery part of blood (5)
13 Go beyond, overshoot (6)
15 Italian sausage (6)
17 Towns with harbours (5)
18 Dead body (7)
22 Collarbone (8)
23 A border or margin (4)
24 Made haste (4)
25 Longing (8)

**DOWN**

1 Fatty (7)
2 Sweeping descent (5)
3 Royal house of Italy (5)
4 Roman emperor (4)
6 Tanning salons (7)
7 Hurricane (5)
11 Fencing swords (5)
12 Step on a ladder (5)
14 Transport charges? (7)
16 Variety of lettuce (7)
17 Where beer guzzling classic rockers hang out off Brigade Road (5)
19 Scene of conflict (5)
20 One of the As of AAP (5)
21 Sore, as muscles (4)

## Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

**Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G**

YCI YV XQQF IVRC AVRN IVREB LEK JRSHQCSEB CSBUY RF YV VNK LBQ.

## Linemaro

You look gloomy. You need some vitamin me

## Mindchow

A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you

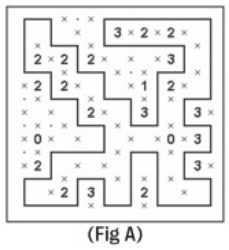
## Joke of the day

Where do seagulls invest their money? In the stork market

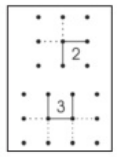
## Loop

### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

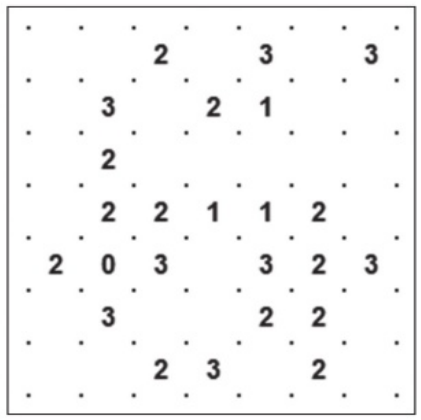


(Fig B) Not Allowed

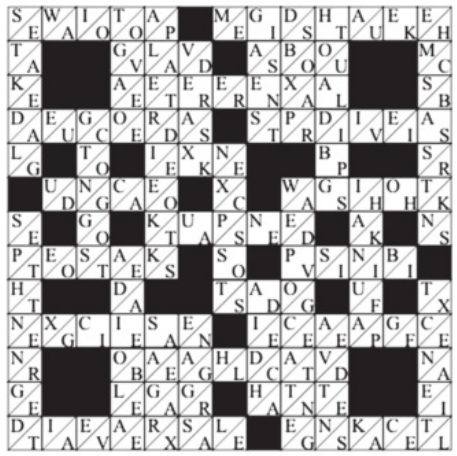
### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



## Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

## Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 C | 5 |
| 6 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | | | |

**ACROSS**

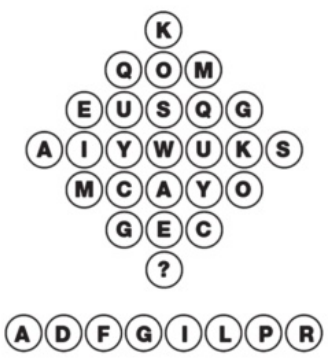
1 C Math; 6 Ligae; 7 Argot; 8 Umami; 9 Scant

**DOWN**

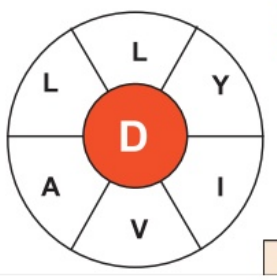
1 Gamic; 2 Am Aga; 3 Taint; 4 Lo cut; 5 Mrs he

## Mensapuzzle

Which of the lower circles replaces the question mark?



## Bull's eye




How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

**10** Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

## SudokuChallenge

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4 | | | | |
| | 7 | | 5 | | 3 | | 1 | |
| | | 1 | 2 | | 8 | 5 | | |
| 7 | | 5 | | | | 6 | | 1 |
| | | 6 | 7 | | 1 | 8 | | |
| 8 | | 9 | | | | 2 | | 3 |
| | | 2 | 3 | | 4 | 9 | | |
| | 3 | | 6 | | 5 | | 4 | |
| | | | | 1 | | | | |

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 19

2 4 5 8

Medium = 32

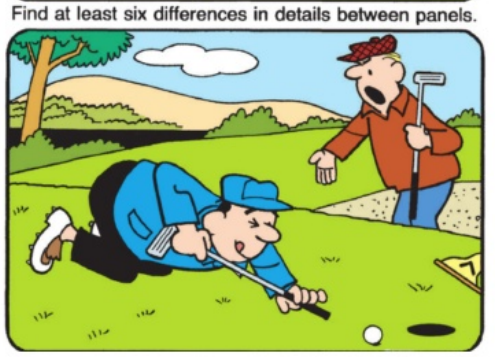
2 3 4 9

Hard = 9

2 6 8 5

## Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



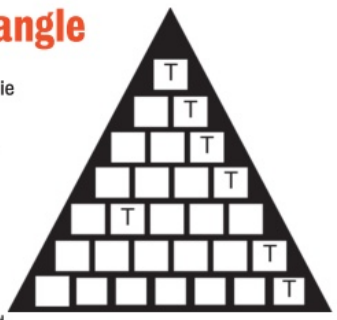
**Differences:** 1. Ball is moved. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Club is longer. 4. Hand is moved. 5. Zipper is missing. 6. Pocket is added.

## Riddler

How does Santa scratch an itch?

## Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Stephen King movie
3 Pose
4 Essence
5 The Police singer
6 Eat
7 Vest

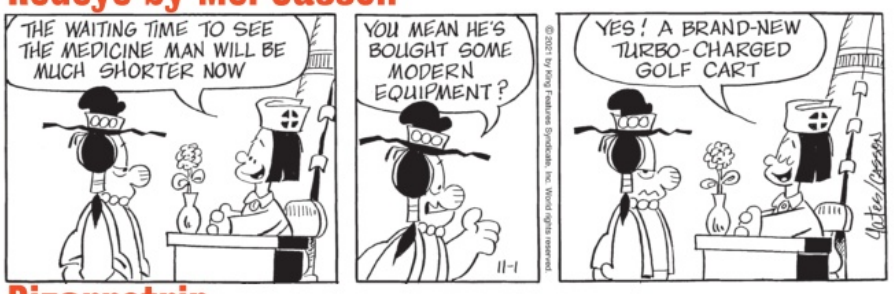


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.


DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

# COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson


THE WAITING TIME TO SEE THE MEDICINE MAN WILL BE MUCH SHORTER NOW
YOU MEAN HE'S BOUGHT SOME MODERN EQUIPMENT?
YES! A BRAND-NEW TURBO-CHARGED GOLF CART
11-1
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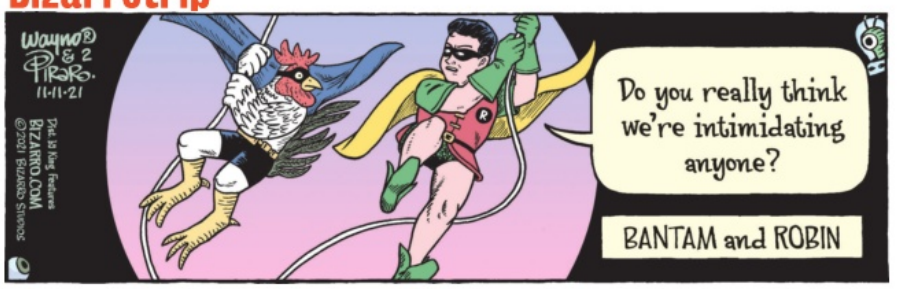
## Bizarrotrip



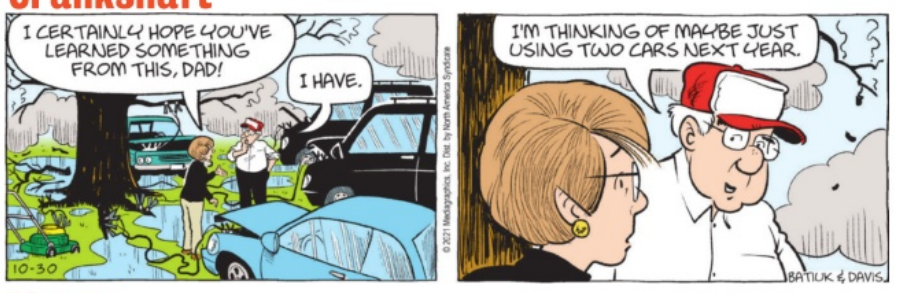

## Diamond Lil

OK, AFTER GOOGLING ALL YOUR SYMPTOMS, HERE'S THE DIAGNOSIS I FOUND
IT SAYS I HAVE TERMINAL ANXIETY!
SO DON'T HANG OUT AT THE AIRPORT
©2021 creators.com 2/18
www.creators.com
Bankert

## Hart of the city

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST PLAY AS A TECHIE?
I REALLY ENJOYED IT, AND I THINK I'M A BETTER SEAMSTRESS NOW, TOO.
BUT UH... THE COMPANY WAS JUST AS GOOD.
I WHOLEHEARTEDLY AGREE, KAT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

## Crankshaft


I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU'VE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM THIS, DAD!
I HAVE.
I'M THINKING OF MAYBE JUST USING TWO CARS NEXT YEAR.
10-30
© 2021 Hedgehog Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate
BATIUK & DAVIS

## Mutts

# WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may improve their impression of you. You may spend money in buying some artefacts or household stuff, which may improve your social status. You may hear some good news from a relative.

**Taurus** Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may be happy and blessed by the moon. You may feel healthy, which may reflect into your way of work. You may perform well in all areas of life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may become very good today; you may make some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.

**Gemini** May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your vital power may slow down. An old disease may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure trips or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligations, you may settle it out of the jury. Try to avoid arguing on worthless topics. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

**Cancer** Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may make quick decisions, which may increase your management skills. This may give benefits in the near future. You may expect some new source of income, which may boost your savings. With the help of your business partner, you may invest some capital in the business. Your bonding with your spouse may increase, which may result in harmony in your domestic life.

**Leo** Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy in the work front, which may make you tired. Due to this, you may fail to spend proper time for a family get-together. You may be able to create an overseas network. You should be careful in terms of investments. Natives in the job may get a promotion.

**Virgo** Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, situations are under control. Your destiny may be with you in terms of gains in business. You may get some rewards for your hard work. It may be a good time to reinitiate your postponed projects. You may expect peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate some money to any religious place or to some charity .

**Libra** Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your moon is not in a good position. You may have health issues. You may face losses in the business or in investment. It is advised not to invest into business. Your gains will convert into losses. Hence, you are advised to stop making investments in worthless objects. You should avoid being involved in controversies, otherwise it will pull you down.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 – Nov 22
You are blessed by the moon today. You may expect to hear some good news regarding your profession. Domestic life may be in full swings of joy. You are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. Overexcitement may test your patience. You can make important decisions regarding investments in real estate. Students will be focused on their studies.

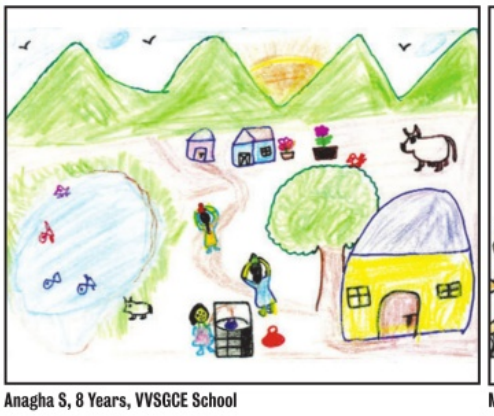
**Sagittarius** Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Love will be in the air. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of professional life. Your friends and subordinates may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery may give positive gains in the near future. You should be careful of your elders' health.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may be happy today. You may release some energy, which may create your prestige among people. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff. You may also plan for some higher studies to groom your career. Students may hear good news in competitive examinations.

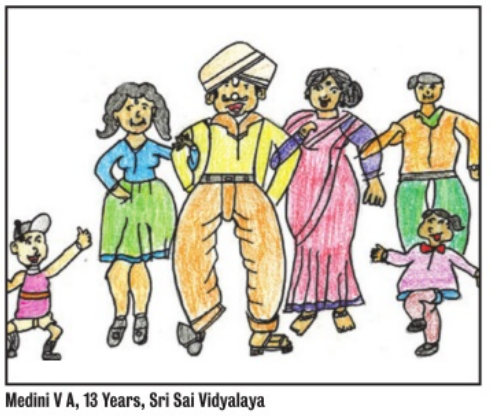
**Aquarius** Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the start of the day may be dull, but after late evening, you may control the negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With their help, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature.

**Pisces** Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, with the help of blessings, you may control your indecisiveness. Kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive about your work, which will convert into success with the help of a project. You may expect to get some incentives with your salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, home maker art and culture may do good.

# KIDZONE



Anagha S, 8 Years, VVSGCE School



Medini V A, 13 Years, Sri Sai Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

# SOLUTIONS

**SOLVE IN 1M**
56 x ⅓ = 28

**RIDDLER**
With his Claus

**BULL'S EYE**
avid, avidly, daily, dally, dial, dill, diva, idly, idyll, lady, laid, valid, VALIDLY

**STRIKE OUT**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | W | O | O | P | M | I | S | T | A | K | E | | | |
| T | | G | A | D | | S | O | U | | | M | | | |
| E | | E | T | E | R | N | A | L | | | B | | | |
| A | U | G | E | R | S | | T | R | I | V | I | A | | |
| L | | O | | I | K | E | | P | | | R | | | |
| | B | A | G | H | D | A | D | | | | N | | | |
| R | | | | | | | | | | | E | | | |
| E | X | C | I | S | E | | I | C | E | A | G | E | | |
| H | | | D | | S | A | O | | F | | T | | | |
| P | O | S | E | S | | O | V | I | I | I | | | | |
| S | | G | | T | A | P | E | D | | A | S | | | |
| | U | N | C | O | | X | | A | S | H | O | K | | |
| L | | O | | I | K | E | | P | | | R | | | |
| A | U | G | E | R | S | | T | R | I | V | I | A | | |
| T | | G | A | D | | S | O | U | | | M | | | |
| E | | E | T | E | R | N | A | L | | | B | | | |
| R | | B | A | G | H | D | A | D | | | N | | | |
| E | X | C | I | S | E | | I | C | E | A | G | E | | |

**FAST FIVE**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | A | T | C | H |
| I | M | A | U | M |
| G | A | T | O | R |
| A | G | I | L | E |
| C | A | N | T | S |

**QUOTE UNCODE**
Try to keep your soul young and quivering right up to old age.

**QUICK**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | E | D | | Y | E | A | R | N | I | N | G | | |
| C | L | A | V | I | C | L | E | | E | D | G | E | | |
| E | | T | | A | | R | | | A | | | B | | |
| S | | | P | | | T | | | I | | | | | |
| E | X | C | E | D | | S | A | L | A | M | I | | | |
| A | | | E | | | I | | | | | | C | | |
| P | O | R | T | S | | C | A | R | C | A | S | | | |
| O | S | P | R | E | Y | S | | S | E | R | U | M | | |
| I | R | O | N | | V | E | R | D | E | L | H | O | | |
| P | | O | | O | | O | | A | | | R | | | |
| D | W | | A | | E | | O | | T | | | | | |
| B | | E | T | E | R | N | A | L | | | G | | | |
| T | | G | A | D | | S | O | U | | | M | | | |

**MENSA PUZZLE**
I. Starting on the left, and moving downwards in columns from left to right, letters are written in alphabetical sequence, in steps of 4 letters at a time.

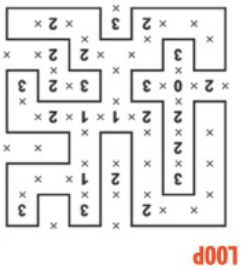
**ALPHA TRIANGLE**
T, It, Sit, Gist, Sting, Ingest, Singlet.

**GO FIGURE**
Easy
8 + 4 + 5 + 2 = 19
3 + 9 + 4 x 2 = 32
Medium
2 x 6 + 5 − 8 = 9
Hard

**SUDOKU**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 |

**LOOP**



**KAKURO**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 6 | 5 | 1 | |
| | | | | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| | | | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| | | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| | 6 | 8 | 9 | | 1 | 2 | 4 | |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 8 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 | | | |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | | | |

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# Queen in the limelight

## We look at instances when Sushmita Sen was the talk of town

Sushmita Sen made India proud on a global platform when she was crowned Miss Universe in 1994. She soon forayed into films. Over the years Sushmita has often been in the news for reasons other than her films. Here's when she hit the headlines:

### Adopted a son?

Sushmita Sen recently hit headlines when she was snapped posing for the paparazzi with her daughters Renee, Alisah and a toddler. Speculations were rife that the actress has adopted a boy and fans started showering the actress with love. However, the kid was the son of her friend Sreejaya. The actress later clarified that the toddler was her Godson Amadeus.

### Break-up with Rohman Shawl

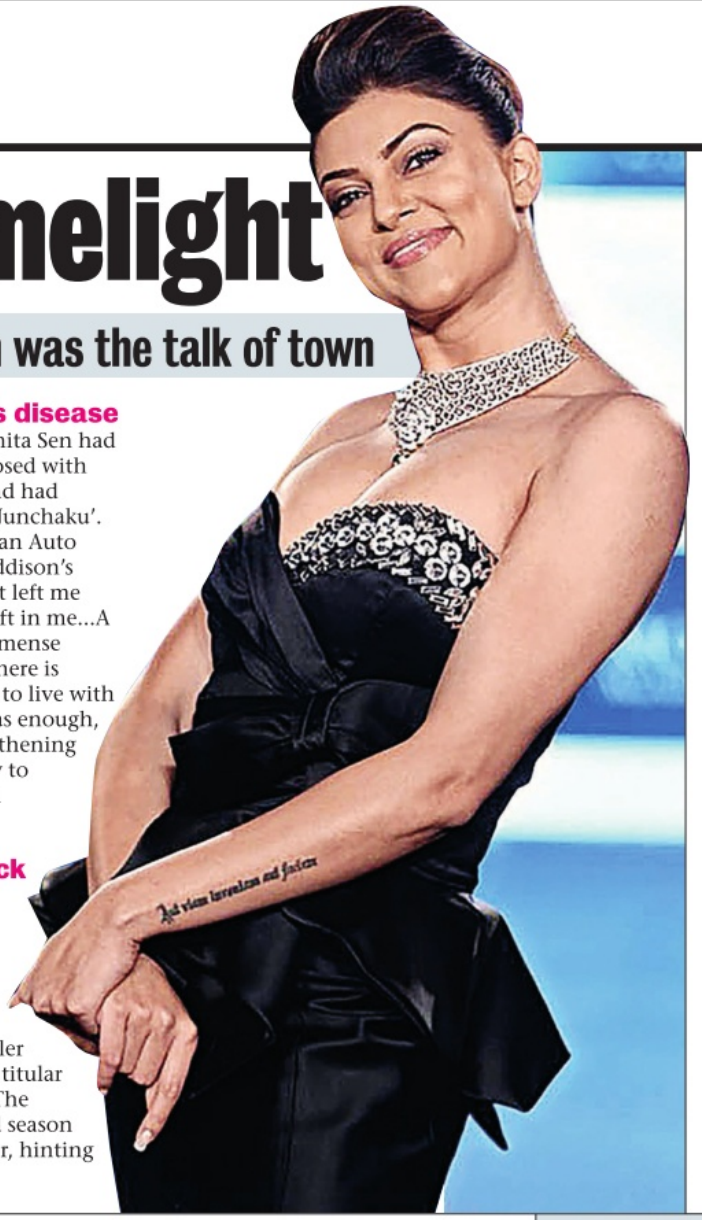
ETimes had exclusively reported that Sushmita Sen and Rohman Shawl had ended their relationship and the latter was crashing at a friend's place in the city. Officially informing fans that their romance had ended, the actress shared on Instagram, "We began as friends, we remain friends!! The relationship was long over...the love remains."

### Battle with Addison's disease

In a social media post Sushmita Sen had revealed that she was diagnosed with Addison's disease in 2014 and had battled it with the help of 'Nunchaku'. "After I was diagnosed with an Auto immune condition called Addison's disease in September 2014, it left me feeling like, I had no fight left in me...A fatigued body filled with immense frustration & aggression... There is NOTHING more tiring than to live with a chronic illness. Enough was enough, I had to find a way of strengthening my mind, allowing my body to follow suit. I meditated with #Nunchaku," she wrote.

### Thundering comeback

Sushmita debuted with 'Dastak' in 1996 and took a break from films, with 'No Problem' being her last big gig. The actress however, plunged onto the OTT bandwagon with crime thriller 'Aarya'. Her portrayal of the titular role impressed one and all. The actress returned for a second season that ended with a cliffhanger, hinting at a third part.



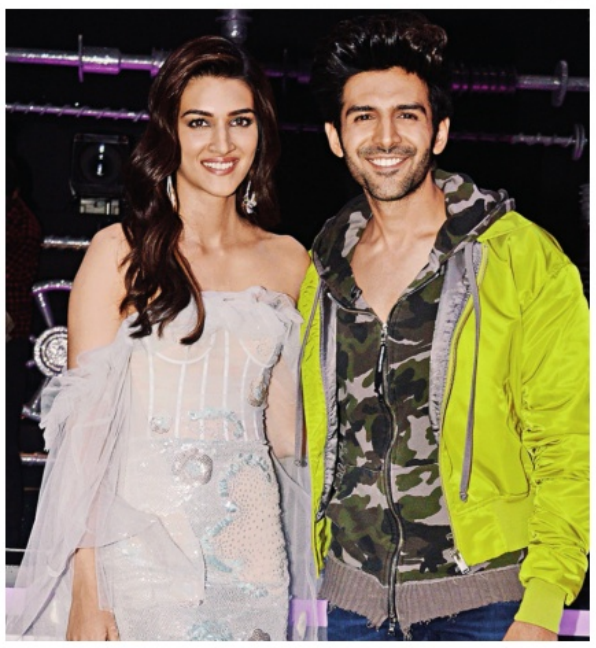
## When're you having a baby? PeeCee responds

More often than not, Priyanka Chopra has been asked about having a baby with husband Nick Jonas. The actress who got married in 2018, says that babies are 'a big part' of her and husband for the future and also added that they would embrace a slower life, when they'll start a family.

In an interview with a Hollywood portal, the actress shared that she looks forward to becoming a mother in the future and how she and Nick are willing to bring changes to their lives whenever it happens. However, when she was asked that both Priyanka and Nick lead very busy lives, she boldly replied that they're 'not too busy to practice'.

Back in 2019, the 'Sky Is Pink' actress was asked whether having a baby was on her-to-do list where she answered in the affirmative – buying a home and having a baby is something she's really looking forward to.

# Rs 8 cr to stop TV premiere?



Kartik Aaryan and Kriti Sanon have reunited for their second project titled 'Shehzada'. It is an official remake of the Telugu film 'Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo' which is being directed by Rohit Dhawan. The actors have already started shooting for the film. The latest reports suggest that the makers are paying a huge amount to stop the makers of Allu Arjun's film to not release the film in Hindi on TV and OTT.

The Telugu version was released in 2020 and it went on to become a hit at the box office. Back then, the producers sold the Hindi Dubbing rights to Manish Shah of Goldmines Telefilms for a sum of Rs. 4 crores. It is now creating problems for 'Shehzada' makers.

According to Bollywood Hungama, the team of 'Shehzada' has reportedly paid Rs. 8 crore to Manish Shah to stop him from releasing the Hindi dubbed version of 'Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo'. It is being said that this might affect the box office numbers of the Hindi version. Kartik and Kriti starrer will be releasing this year in November.

Earlier, Kartik spoke about his solid lineup of films. He told IANS, "I feel really grateful looking at the way 2021 ended in terms of work and with all different films lined up next, I am very excited for 2022."

— ETimes

## Jason Momoa, Lisa Bonet announce split: Love between us carries on

Hollywood star Jason Momoa and his wife Lisa Bonet have announced that they are ending their marriage. Taking to Instagram, Momoa, 42, posted a joint statement with Bonet, 54, saying they are going their separate ways after four years of marriage and more than a decade as a couple. "We have all felt the squeeze and changes of these transformational times... A revolution is unfolding and our family is of no exception... feeling and growing from the seismic shifts occurring. And so - We share our Family news - That we are parting ways in marriage," the statement read.

The two said they are announcing their breakup "not because we think it's newsworthy" but so they can go about their lives "with dignity and honesty." "The love between us carries on, evolving in ways it wishes to be known and lived. We free each other to be who we are learning to become... "Our devotion unwavering to this sacred life our children. Teaching our children what's possible. Living the Prayer. May Love Prevail... J & L" they concluded.

# Pooja's on a roll

Actor Pooja Hegde, who dabbles in different film industries, will have a busy 2022 as she has five films lined up for release.

Her upcoming films for this year include Vijay Thalapathy's 'Beast', 'Cirkus' opposite Ranveer Singh, 'Acharya' with Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan, 'Radhe Shyam' opposite Prabhas and a yet-untitled film opposite Mahesh Babu.

Thrilled about launching into a happening year, Pooja shares, "Despite the challenges, last year has been so giving and inspiring for me. All the love that 'Most Eligible Bachelor' got in theatres was overwhelming. It made me feel like a newcomer."

Her goal for 2022 is to work with people with a knack for brilliant storytelling, "As for 2022, I'm more determined to jam with brilliant minds and give the audience cinema that is worth remembering. I want to explore spaces of my craft that excite the audience, makers and me."